

SWINE INFLUENZA (Swine Flu)

Q & A for Swine Fair Exhibitors

Q: What is the current situation with swine influenza?

In late March and early April 2009, two cases of human infection with swine influenza A (H1N1) viruses were first reported in Southern California. These individuals had no contact with swine. To date, additional human infections have been detected in Texas, Kansas, Ohio, and New York. The Center for Disease Control and Prevention, with State and local Public Health agencies, are investigating the current outbreak.

Q: Are any California swine infected with swine influenza?

A: To date, there are no known cases of swine influenza in California swine. CDFA is closely monitoring the situation and evaluating the health of California's swine herd.

Q: Can I show my swine at the fair?

A: Currently, there are no restrictions for showing healthy swine at fairs. Swine displaying signs of respiratory illness, including nasal discharge or coughing, should not be taken to the fair. If your swine are showing these signs, contact your veterinarian or the nearest California Department of Food & Agriculture (CDFA) Animal Health Branch District Office.

Q: What signs should I watch for in my fair pig?

A: Pigs with influenza may show a variety of signs of disease, including:

- coughing
- runny nose and/or eyes
- sneezing
- depression
- lack of appetite
- difficulty breathing
- fever.

Q: How is swine influenza spread?

A: Swine influenza can be spread by

- direct contact with infected pigs
- contaminated equipment
- contaminated clothing or boots
- respiratory excretions, which become airborne and carried a short distance.

Q: How can I protect my pig at the fair?

A: Proper hygiene and health management practices should be used when working with animals. The following practices should be implemented:

- Limit contact between animals
- Clean and disinfect equipment between use
- Wash hands before and after working with animals.

Q: My pig is vaccinated for swine influenza, can it still get sick?

A: Influenza vaccines for pigs can help, but are not 100% effective. There are several strains of influenza that can infect swine and current vaccines do not protect against all strains.

Q: Is it safe to eat pork?

A: Swine influenza viruses are not spread by food. You cannot get swine influenza from eating properly cooked pork or pork products. Eating properly handled and cooked pork products is safe.

CDFA Animal Health Branch Offices	
Sacramento (HQ)	916-654-1447
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